

March 30, 1995

LB 251, 438A

SENATOR FISHER: As I said earlier, LB 438 is designed to make the department or agency self-supporting and it has a positive effect on the fund, General Fund, so I would ask the advancement of 438A.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Fisher. Any discussion on the advancement of LB 438A? Seeing none, Senator Fisher, do you wish to close? Closing is waived. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 438A. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of LB 438A.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: LB 438A advances. LB 251.

CLERK: LB 251, a bill by Senator McKenzie. (Read title.) Introduced on January 10, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to open on the committee amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to speak just briefly to the committee amendments and then allow Senator McKenzie to explain in more detail because the committee amendment is the bill. And essentially this bill has to do with the transfer of groundwater. It is limited to transfers of groundwater for agricultural purposes and the general thrust of the amendment is to clarify and/or liberalize the groundwater transfer law so as to basically allow for those kinds of transfers providing the criteria set forth in lines 9, 10, and 11 of the committee amendments are met. It goes on to provide for a hearing procedure in case there are some objections, a hearing procedure before the Natural Resources District. That's basically what the bill is all about and Senator McKenzie may want to elaborate on that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, just so you understand what those criteria are in terms of allowing for the transfer, it allows that it has to be put to reasonable and beneficial use and it does restrict that to within the boundary of the state so we cannot transfer water